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there was nothing in his country, whereof he had not the counter-feat in golde.”

For an estimate of the simple faith of this staid Briton, Dr. Zahm goes to his countryman, Sir Frederick Treves, who declares:

“There never was a more romantic river voyager; never a more rapturous wild-goose chase. Raleigh was infinitely gullible. He believed every word the romance-loving Spaniards told him as if he had been a gaping schoolboy. He trusted Juan Martines as a modern traveler trusts his Baedeker. He gathered inspiration and assurance from any dull-witted Indian who nodded ‘yes’ to the unintelligible questions of his interpreter.”

Dr. Zahm’s book, especially the chapter on Raleigh, will do noble service in readjusting historical values. Catholics must be thankful for the service, since so much is still done in our time to disparage the exploits of Catholic Spain in the discovery and exploration of America. Typographically, the book is worthy of the publishers. The numerous illustrations that enliven the narrative are from ancient woodcuts in De Bry, Colijn, Gottfriedt and Herrera. There is a good bibliography and full index.

The Virginia Committee System and the American Revolution.

By James Miller Leake, Ph.D., Associate in History in Bryn Mawr College. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1917. Pp. 152, Series xxxv, No. 1. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, under the Direction of the Departments of History, Political Economy, and Political Science.

A service of special importance has been rendered to students of early American history by Dr. Leake’s skillful presentation of the above difficult subject. Personal researches by the author in the Library of Congress and among the valuable archives of the Virginia State Library and of the Virginia Historical Society, give added weight to his conclusions.

A good insight into the purpose and character of the work is afforded by a study of the brief, but comprehensive, introduction. The author points out how, heretofore, the committees of the Virginia system have been studied mainly as isolated units

rather than as parts of a well-developed system. "To show the continuity, to explain the organization of the committees of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and to show their part in the calling of the first Continental Congress," is the purpose of his study.

The work is divided into four chapters. In the first Dr. Leake shows that, "a system of English legislative committees, transplanted from the mother country . . . has become the very ground-work of the American legislative system . . . From special committees to do certain specific things, after which the committees were discharged, to permanent standing committees, with wider, but equally definite functions, was a process of evolution." The Journal of the House of Burgesses during the session of 1702-3, records the appointment of three standing committees, namely, the committee of public claims, the committee of election and privileges, and the committee of propositions and grievances. The author explains the function of these different committees, as also that of the committee of the whole. Other committees touched upon in succeeding chapters, but not indicated in the general headings, are the committees of courts of justice, of trade, and of religion.

Chapter the second is taken up with the Committee of Correspondence (1759-1770), to whom pertained the special function of communicating with the colonial agent, and the relationship existing between the committee and the House of Burgesses. This committee, according to the author, later developed into the committee for intercolonial correspondence.

In chapter third, a comparative study is made between the committee of correspondence of 1773 and the earlier one of 1759. In the fourth and final chapter, the writer proves that "the first Continental Congress was the creation of the intercolonial committees of correspondence, their efforts having made its calling possible." Of the members of the Congress of 1774, a majority belong to the committees of correspondence.

The transition from the Virginia Committee of Correspondence to the Virginia Committee of Safety will be discussed by Dr. Leake in a future treatise, which, doubtless, will show the same painstaking care, the same orderly, scientific and comprehensive treatment as is found in his scholarly presentation of the Virginia Committee System and the American Revolution.
